restaurant*guide*

CITY PAGES 2017 SPRING EDITION

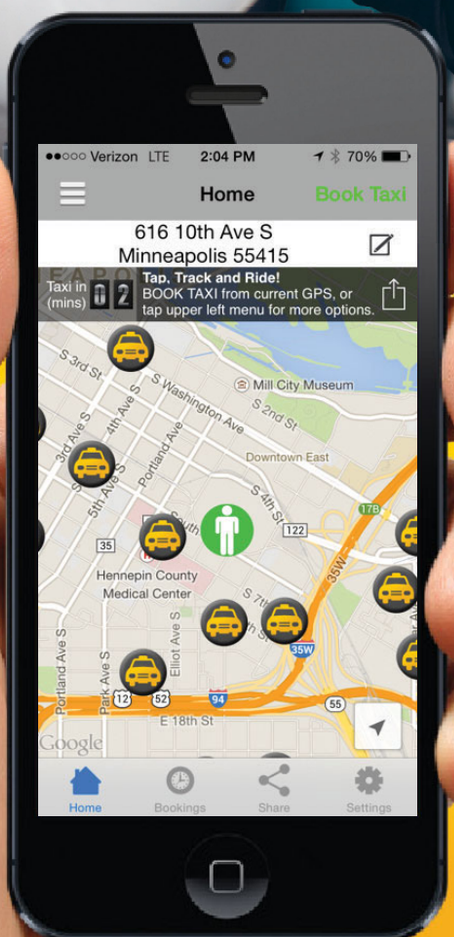
SAGUARO

Fresh, flavorful, and steeped in tradition, Saguaro captures the best of Mexico's culinary heritage and marries it with American inventiveness and flair

p. 9

Enjoy the good times!

We'll take it from there.



iHAIL™

TRANSPORTATION *plus*

GET THE FREE iHAIL APP • SAVE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA!

612.888.8888

APP • TEXT • CALL

BAR & MOOSE GRILL

4X VOTED BEST BAR IN NORTHEAST

BEST BAR IN NE
BEST PIZZA
BEST WINGS

$10.99 FULL RACK OF RIBS WEDNESDAYS 4PM TILL GONE

KARAOKE
TUE - SUN | 9PM

TRIVIA
MON | 8PM

WHERE THE PARTY STARTS AND NEVER ENDS!

SERVICE, SALON & TATTOO INDUSTRY NIGHT
MON | 8PM-CLOSE

$2 ALMOST EVERYTHING 8PM-11PM

$3 ALMOST EVERYTHING 11PM-CLOSE

BINGO

WED | 6:30PM • SAT | 1:30PM • SUN | 5:30PM

$1,199 COVERALL EACH SESSION + WIN UP TO $500 ON GAME 6

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BINGO | 3PM *Sponsored by the Italian American Club Lic. #B00511-008*

LOOKING FOR A TEAM SPONSOR?
SOFTBALL? KICKBALL?
VOLLEYBALL? SOCCER?
CALL US!

KITCHEN OPEN 8AM - 2AM EVERY DAY | FULL MENU

356 MONROE ST. MINNEAPOLIS | 612.623.4999

WWW.MOOSENE.COM

Lindey's INC

"THE PLACE FOR STEAK"

3600 North Snelling Avenue
Arden Hills, MN • 651.633.9813

Open Monday-Friday
from 11am-3pm for Lunch
and from 5pm-10pm for Dinner

Open Saturday All Day from 11am-10pm

A Twin Cities original...
Since 1958

Founded **59** years ago,
Lindey's Prime Steak House
is a second-generation,
family owned and operated
traditional steak house.

Customer Appreciation Days Event

May 1st-4th, 2017

Any Lindey's Steak
or Shrimp Dinner
$19.58
in observance of the year we opened!

www.theplaceforsteak.com

Urban Comfort Food

EGGY'S
MINNEAPOLIS DINER

120 14th Street West, Minneapolis | 763.310.3449 | Monday - Sunday 7am - 3pm

VALIDATED PARKING FOR 90 MINUTES IN LPM RAMP | FREE WIFI AVAILABLE

EGGYSDINER.COM

American Furniture MART

www.americanfurniture-mart.com

763-315-8877

12 Months • 0 Interest
0 Down Financing*

Your Low Price Leader with "Better Than Sale Prices" Since 1995!

Sofa $299 While Supply Lasts

Darcy Cobblestone Sofa

Also Available in

Sofa $399 While Supply Lasts

Blackwood Taupe Sofa & Love Seat

Matching Cocktail Tables also Available

Maier Charcoal Sofa Chaise $699

Also Available in

Follett Coffee Sofa & Loveseat

Reclining Sofa $499

Reclining Loveseat $499

Lenmara Reddish Brown Wall Unit $829

Large TV Stand Reddish Brown $296

Agella Queen Bedroom
Includes: Queen Headboard, Footboard, Dresser, Mirror, Chest & Nightstand

$699

Long Peak Queen Mattress & Foundation $399

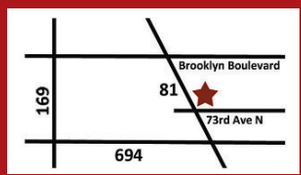
9" MyGel Queen Mattress Set $699

Thousands of area rugs starting at $49

Bennox Brown Counter Height Table & 4 Stools $329

7308 Lakeland Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Immediate Pick Up/Delivery Service Available · Free 90 Day Layaway *OAC



THE NICOLLET DINER

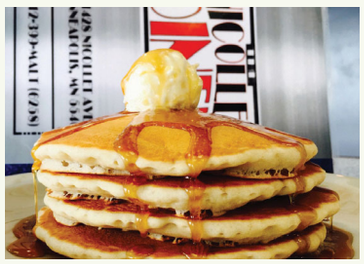
OPEN
SUNDAY *to* SATURDAY
24 HOURS

CITY PAGES BEST OF THE TWIN CITIES

VOTED TOP 5 DINERS *by* CITY PAGES READERS!

FEATURING

Espresso Drinks, Smoothies & Fresh Baked Pastries *from* Muffin Top Café!
BREAKFAST, BURGERS, FRIES, SHAKES, MALTS, SUNDAES, & BANANA SPLITS



FEATURING A FULL BAR

Premium Wells • Spiked Shakes • Hard Floats • Draft Cocktails
Local Craft Beer • Margaritas • Daiquiris • Classic Cocktails • Full Wine List

MUFFIN TOP CAFÉ
HAPPY HOUR
2-4-1s On Prepared Drinks
5pm – 7:30pm

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club is FREE and offers you great saving and rewards based on your visits to the Nicollet Diner & Muffin Top Café.

1428 Nicollet Ave MPLS, MN 55403 • 612-399-MALT(6258)
WWW.THENICOLLETDINER.COM

EXCELSIOR – LAKE MINNETONKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

st. paddy's day • 5k run

BRIDGEWATER BANK

Luck o' the Lake

excelsior, mn

9:00 a.m. - 1 mile
begins and ends at the finish line

9:30 a.m. - 5K
begins on Water Street

Virtual race bags

5K Registration: $35 through February 27, $45 February 28 - March 11

1 Mile: $10 | Register Online at www.tinyurl.com/2017luckothelake

For more information, visit the Chamber Website at www.excelsior-lakeminnetonkachamber.com

EXCELSIOR · EXCELSIOR · ALERUS · Gary's CAR CARE · KOWALSKI'S · WSB

Patisserie Margo · Myra Wang, Certified Massage Therapist · Ridgeview Medical Center · Camp Smile Pediatric Dentistry

CONTENTS

11
ST. PAUL'S STRIP CLUB MEAT & FISH TO CLOSE JULY 1: 'WE'RE THROWING A SIX-MONTH PARTY'
By Mecca Bos

13
7 PLACES TO FIND GREAT BARBECUE RIGHT NOW (AND WHAT TO GET ONCE YOU'RE THERE)
By Mecca Bos

19
CHECK OUT THESE 5 UNDER-THE-RADAR FOOD TRUCKS
By Mecca Bos

23
SNEAK PEEK OF BELLECOUR, GAVIN KAYSEN'S FRENCH BISTRO IN WAYZATA
By Mecca Bos

27
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A RESTAURANT HITS HARD TIMES? THREE OWNERS CHIME IN
By Mecca Bos

33
CAN CAN WONDERLAND: DRINK A CRAFT COCKTAIL WHILE YOU MINI-GOLF IN ST. PAUL'S INDUSTRIAL MIDWAY NEIGHBORHOOD
By Mecca Bos

37
NEW BREWERIES FOR ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS
By Mecca Bos

On the cover

saguaro™
AZ-MEX CUISINE & TEQUILA BAR

5309 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis
612-886-2083
www.saguarompls.com

saguaro

AZ-MEX CUISINE & TEQUILA BAR

5309 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis
612-886-2083
www.saguarompls.com
HOURS: Tu-Fr, 4-10; Sa, 11-10;
Su, 10-9 (brunch & dinner)

THE NEW SOUTHWEST

Saguaro brings a well-balanced take on traditional Mexican to South Minneapolis

Is it possible to take the rich culinary traditions of Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico, add a dash of Lebanese brightness and a healthy dollop of down-home Minnesota sensibility, and produce a dining experience that is at once crave-worthy, inventive and comforting?

That is the question that owner Mandy Abdo Sheahan and chef Rich Harrison attempt to answer every day at Saguaro, their cozy neighborhood gem in South Minneapolis.

"We call it Az-Mex," Abdo explains of her restaurant's style, admitting the term was invented to describe Saguaro's unique blend of flavors. "It's lighter and more subtle than traditional Tex-Mex, richer and more robust than Cal-Mex. It's complex but very approachable—a lot like our inspiration."

That inspiration is Abdo's grandmother, who was born to a Lebanese family in Arizona and grew up in Tucson, then transplanted to Minnesota where she raised a large, rambunctious and multi-talented family on Minnehaha Parkway, just a stone's-throw from Saguaro's current location at 53rd & Lyndale.

IT'S ALL ABOUT FLAVOR

Saguaro's food is familiar but elevated; comforting but skillfully executed. The menu's core is tacos—a nice variety of quality ingredients well-seasoned and attractively presented on fresh, locally-made tortillas (your choice of corn or flour). The options rotate with the season, so occasionally favorites will fall off the menu (closed caption to Chef Rich: bring back the roasted mushroom!), but there is always a nice array of choices ranging from traditional (steak, chicken) to adventurous (octopus!).

Beyond tacos, the menu offers a generous slate of entrees that include classic Mexican dishes—fajitas, enchiladas, and the best tamales in Minnesota (a subjective but easily defensible opinion)—as well as items that are just plain fun—the shrimp/scallops and grits is a rich and savory non-sequitur that somehow works.

The creativity doesn't stop with the food. Saguaro takes advantage of its full liquor license to craft a number of margaritas that pair perfectly with their distinctive cuisine.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

That Abdo has managed to marshal a welcoming and successful restaurant in the Twin Cities might be more genetics than luck or skill. Her mother (who is co-owner of Saguaro) has been satisfying hungry Twin Cities diners in one form or another since the 1970's when she ran a pita bread sandwich shop on St. Anthony Main.

Between her father (Nicollet Island Inn) and her brothers (My Burger) the family has got your food choices covered from casual to fine dining.

And in her spare time, Abdo and her cousin Tina can be found at the Great Minnesota Get-Together doling out slabs of bacon-on-a-stick to an eager and drooling horde at Big Fat Bacon.

But if you're looking for everyday dining that offers complex but well-balanced flavors and quality, scratch-made dishes all wrapped up in a cozy neighborhood setting, Saguaro is hard to beat.

Throw in a margarita or two and you might have the perfect dinner.

CHIMICHANGA A mountain of beans, cheese, herbed rice, salsa, and a choice of protein wrapped in a tortilla and deep-fried	*paired with*	**PRICKLY PEAR MARGARITA** Jalapeno-infused Tequila, orange liqueur, prickly pear nectar, house-made sour, served over ice
DUCK SOPES Confit of duck served on pillowy sweet potato cakes	*paired with*	**THE DESPERADO** Crystal Tequila, Grand Marnier, lime, Agave Nectar, served up
ROASTED CARROT TACO Tri-color Carrots, Spiced Marscapone, Arugula, Carrot Greens	*paired with*	**SANGRIA** House-made blend of red wine and seasonal fruits

EL PARIAN
Mexican Restaurant

17557 Glasgow Ave.
Lakeville, MN 55044
Phone: 952-683-1996

The best Mexican Restaurant in Lakeville, Minnesota
*UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

www.elparianlakeville.com

Jazz MN
Enriching Life With Jazz
Doug Snapp, Artist Director

JazzMN Orchestra
presents
NextGen Jazz
with guest artists from LA's
Urban Renewal Project

March 5, 2017 | 3:00 pm

"Urban Renewal Project is a musical collective that brilliantly explores the boundaries between rock, pop, jazz and hip hop." —Elle Breezy, Singersroom

featuring MN Youth Jazz Bands & The Dakota Jazz Combo

The Auditorium at Hopkins High School
JazzMN.org/tickets | 1-800-595-4849

JAZZ88FM

Swimming Pools • Service

PRESTIGE POOLS

Equipment Sales • Supplies

87 County Road C West, St. Paul • 651-490-1399 • www.prestigepools.com

St. Paul's Strip Club Meat & Fish to close July 1: 'We're throwing a six-month party'

The changing of the guard continues. Over the past few months, we've seen some of Minneapolis' most definitive restaurants close, including Middle Eastern finer dining destination Saffron, bistro gem Grand Cafe, and, soon, the one-of-a-kind Piccolo.

Come July 1, you can add a St. Paul favorite to the list: Strip Club Meat & Fish. Co-owners Tim Niver and J.D. Fratzke recently announced the impending closure of their popular steakhouse.

"We just thought we'd let everybody go to the cabin and the beach," Fratzke says by phone, a cheeky explanation for their decision to not renew their lease after 10 years in business.

In reality, both partners have recently taken up other projects: Niver at the small but very mighty Mucci's in St. Paul; both partners at Saint Dinette; and Fratzke at an upcoming venture, City House, in partnership with Matty O'Reilly of Republic fame.

"It's like moving out of the house where your kids grew up," Fratzke says. He's feeling "good" about the obviously difficult decision, but anyone who knows Strip Club knows it was never just any restaurant.

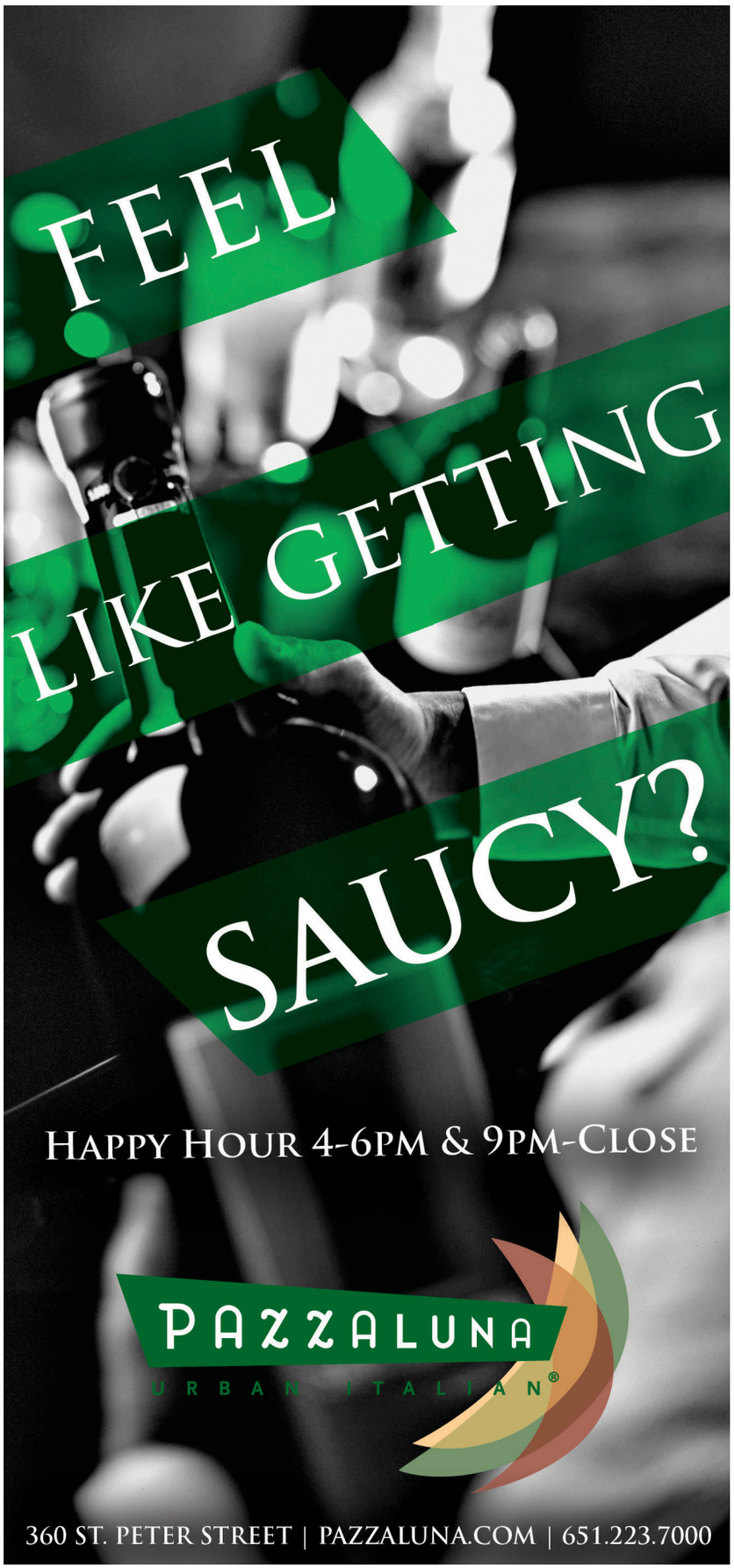
The two partners opened a steakhouse that's not exactly a steakhouse—in a strange but beautiful old building, in a difficult-to-sell part of east St. Paul—and made it work for a decade. In that time, the place became a beloved sanctuary for many, and reflecting on those relationships and friendships chokes the chef up.

"You can't be a good chef unless you have a larger life," Fratzke says. He's known for late-night musings and social media poetry fueled by the haze of aching legs, music, wine, and grease after long shifts at his decade-long cooking home.

Strip Club will throw its "six month party" until July 1. Niver and Fratzke hold the lease through the end of that month, and say they'll host private "Strip Club-style" parties for anyone looking to rent out the space.

378 Maria Avenue, St. Paul | 651-793-6247
www.domeats.com

—MECCA BOS



DINNER & SHOW PACKAGE

Friday–Saturday

$33 per person

Includes a $16 pasta or entreé, a ticket to the show, and preferred seating

acme COMEDY CO.

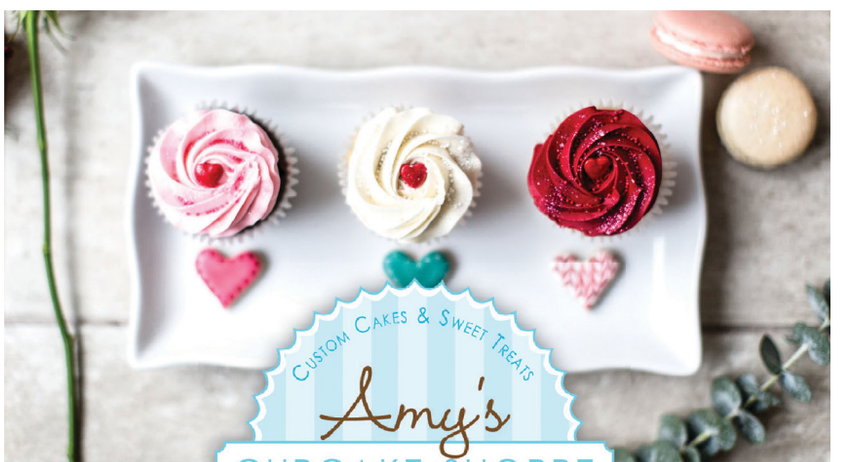
Ryan Hamilton Feb. 24-25

Beth Stelling Mar. 3-4

Jake Johannsen Mar. 10-11

Carmen Lynch Mar. 17-18

708 N. 1st Street | Minneapolis | 612.338.6393 | **www.acmecomedycompany.com**



Custom Cakes & Sweet Treats
Amy's CUPCAKE SHOPPE LLC
701 Main Street, Hopkins

Baking cakes, cupcakes, and macarons for any occasion you can think of!

701 MAINSTREET | HOPKINS, MN | 952.479.7516 | AMYSCUPCAKESHOPPE.COM

Belle Junque

Offering vintage goods and refreshed furniture for the home .

474 Cleveland Avenue South
St. Paul, MN 55105 | 612.670.7645
www.bellejunque.com

7 places to find great barbecue right now (and what to get once you're there)

Our food scene tends to be like a hive mind, where all at once we notice a need, and then swarm to fill it. It's as if everybody simultaneously pocketed the best smoked meats recipes on the way back from their vacation down South.

Below find seven great spots, some old, some new, some familiar, some less so, but all smoky, meaty (and sometimes veggie), and worth a look.

Q FANATIC

Charlie Johnson is a man who was once deeply in love with Italian food (and who isn't, really?), but then wham! The Atkins diet hit America like a slab of bacon hitting the pan. Every man and woman was swearing off pizza and pasta like they were the anti-Christ. So what was Johnson to do? Change aisles, naturally. And we're pretty ecstatic that he did. Applying the cheffly skills he learned in European-style cuisine, Q Fanatic is an amalgam of what Johnson thinks of as the best specialties from every region—Texas-style brisket, Memphis dry-rub ribs, Kansas City-style sauces. We're also quite partial to the cinnamon and sugar-tinged chicken wings, which they try not to run out of because customers throw a fit if they do. Go and see what the dust-up is all about.

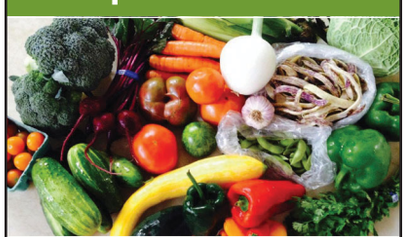
6009 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis
612-208-1809
180 Miller Road, Champlin | 763-323-6550
www.qfanatic.com

BIG DADDY'S

The gold standard. Thirty years of practice and true Southern prowess make the gentlemen of Big Daddy's the heavyweight belt wearers of local Q, and I'll fight you if you say anything different. Starting with that parking lot pit on Selby and Dale, they moved indoors only at the haranguing of the health department. Then, they had to re-learn with indoor equipment and walls everything that they had known about open smoke and open air. And they did it. People still drive from many miles around for a true taste of Big Daddy's. Go for the rib tips, the "Flintstone" beef short rib sandwich,

DRIFTLESS ORGANICS

Helping out the planet, one potato at a time.

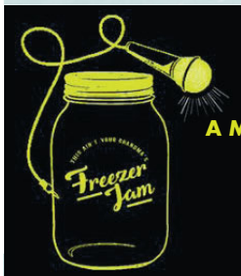


CSA SHARES ON SALE NOW!
SIGN UP NOW & TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EARLY BIRD PRICING

52450 McManus Road
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655 | 608.624.3735
www.driftlessorganics.com

LAW ENFORCEMENT Presents POLAR PLUNGE
SPECIAL OLYMPICS MINNESOTA

GO JUMP IN A LAKE.



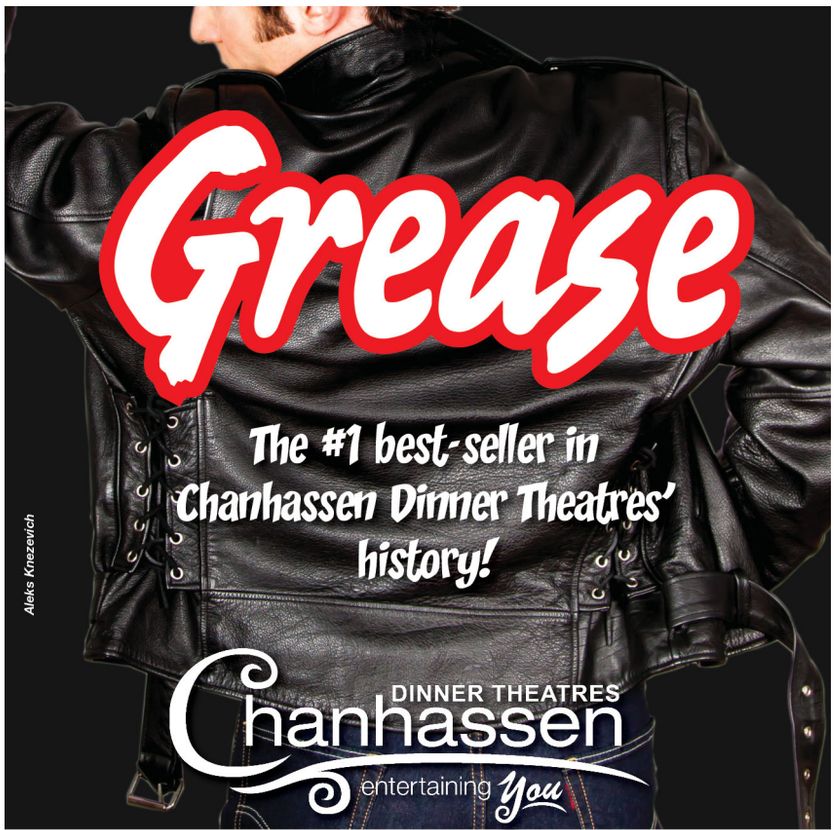
FREEZER JAM
A MUSIC FESTIVAL AT THE MINNEAPOLIS POLAR PLUNGE
FEATURING: 4ONTHEFLOOR, THE LAST REVEL, VIVA KNIEVEL, and MADIEN DIXIE
THOMAS BEACH, LAKE CALHOUN, MINNEAPOLIS
MARCH 4, 2017 | 1PM-7PM
BENEFITING SPECIAL OLYMPICS MINNESOTA

PLUNGEMN.ORG

PICTURED: MARY COLE, DISTELFUNK

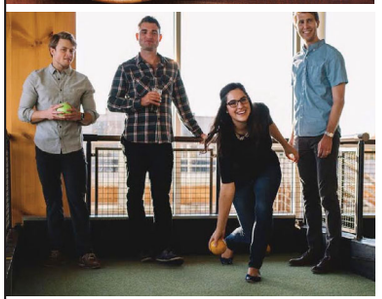
TextileCenter
A national center for fiber art

3000 University Ave SE • Mpls, MN 55414
textilecentermn.org
Just steps from the Prospect Park Green Line Stop!



PINSTRIPES
BISTRO BOWLING BOCCE

A UNIQUE DINING & ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION
Experience Sophisticated Fun with our Seasonally Inspired Scratch Kitchen, Upscale Bowling Lanes, Bocce Courts and Cozy Outdoor Patio!



Edina, MN | 3849 Gallagher Drive | 952-835-6440
PINSTRIPES.COM

ROCK - JAZZ - COUNTRY - POP - R&B
CONCERT SERIES
CHANHASSEN DINNER THEATRES

Tonic Sol-fa
The most in-demand vocal group in the Midwest
March 10 & 11

100 Years of Sinatra
Featuring the Andrew Walesch Big Band
March 24 & 25

Running On Empty
A Tribute to Jackson Browne
March 31 & April 1

STEVIE RAY'S COMEDY CABARET
Just $28!

Hilarious!
Comedy variety show every Friday and Saturday night

Have a look at what Encore has to offer!

Spacious dining and multiple Karaoke rooms will leave you wanting more!

Our experienced staff will provide quality entertainment for you and your party.

2111 E Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN • 55404
612.889.3128

ENCOREMN.COM

and the BBQ baked beans, laced with an addictive secret ingredient.

625 University Avenue, St. Paul
651-222-2516
www.bigdaddysbbq-stpaul.com

REVIVAL ST. PAUL

You've already fallen hard for Revival's fried chicken. Now head over to Revival St. Paul for their new BBQ menu, where the brisket is king, the pork belly is so decadent it's almost intimidating, and the pork shoulder eats like meat candy. Chef Thomas Boemer has thought long and hard about sourcing and technique, and it shows. The beef is close to as good as it gets in the business: certified Angus, "never ever" treated with hormones and antibiotics, and humanely raised. The end product means a deeply marbled cut, touched with Boemer's expertise in powerful smoke and flavor. Get these things, along with their full lineup of Southern sides. Whatever you do, do not miss the ethereal drop biscuits.

525 Selby Avenue, St. Paul | 651-340-2355
www.revivalfriedchicken.com

BARK AND THE BITE

You gotta love the plucky tenacity of guys willing to sell barbecue out of the back of a convenience store. In fact, it's in this sort of gritty perseverance that the true spirit of the craft lies. And so we love to tout Bark and the Bite, who also have a food truck by the same name. Head over to Sunny's Market in Northeast and push aside the Cheez-its and Hostess in favor of far mightier munchies. We love that they're serving Jackfruit, a vegetarian natural wonder that takes on the texture and flavor of meats when treated as such. The twice-cooked dry rub wings are also a triumph, or go for Tennessee hot, smoked and fried in duck fat. One hundred percent not vegetarian, one hundred percent delish.

2207 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis
612-470-2275 | www.barkandthebite.com

FAT CHANCE

Take a chef who knows a thing or two about hard times and wants to help others out of theirs, and toss in some smoked meat piled on big old sandwiches for a fair price. That's Fat Chance, a new sandwich spot in a far-flung and underserved strip mall in Brooklyn Park across the street from North Hennepin Community College. Brain food looks a lot, well, fattier with house-smoked pulled chicken covered in fried onion petals, cheese sauce, and coleslaw. The owners' nonprofit work with homeless

EACH BATCH CRAFTED WITH LOVE AND CARE

SODAS/FLOATS • COFFEES AND TEAS
ICE CREAM CAKES • BAKED GOODS

3146 HENNEPIN AVE S • UPTOWN MPLS • 612.824.5252 • LALAHOMEMADEICECREAM.COM

CYNTHIA STARKWEATHER-NELSON NATURALLY

JANUARY 1, 2017 – MARCH 31, 2017

OPENINGNIGHT
FRAMING SERVICES & GALLERY

2836 Lyndale Ave. South • Minneapolis, MN 55408
T: 612-872-2325 www.onframe-art.com

Family Law That Respects The Family

We welcome all families

Divorce

Parenting Schedules

Child & Spousal Support

Paternity

Antenuptial Agreements

Cooperative Negotiating

R. Leigh Frost law, ltd.
Family Law that respects the family

265 West 7th Street,
Suite 202
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 222-0672

www.rleighfrostlaw.com

The HAPPY GNOME

Dine. Drink. Repeat.

OPEN EVERY NIGHT UNTIL 1AM

498 SELBY AVE. SY PAUL, MN 55102

651-287-2018

THEHAPPYGNOME.COM

THEHAPPYGNOMEMN

men makes the fare taste even sweeter. For purists, go on Tuesdays for ribs and rib tips until they're gone.

Pro tip: If you can possibly fathom it after that big ass sandwich, pick up a sack full of Vietnamese food for dinner from MT Noodles, housed in the same Brooklyn Park strip mall.

8419 W. Broadway Avenue, Brooklyn Park
763-283-5100 | www.fatchancefood.com

HANDSOME HOG

If your idea of smoked meat includes a hundred bourbon labels, Benton's Bacon in the mac & cheese, and a charcuterie bar, then Handsome Hog is your place. While purists may head for the barrel smoker in the parking lot, if you're the kind of guy who gets dressed for dinner, Handsome Hog has got you. The menu can be described as comprehensive, so there's a little something for everyone here. Chef Justin Sutherland describes it as "Contemporary Southernish," so they're not at all boxed in by tradition or genre. Still, our fave way to go here is the smoked beef brisket, where sexy slabs of meat are planked upon each other and accompanied by Texas toast, house pickles, and sweet corn. It's the house specialty, and when it's gone it's gone. Sprinkle on a little (or a lot) of Crybaby Craig's hot sauce to seriously up the ante. Add a wedge salad with bacon lardons and pimento cheese with Ritz crackers for a folksy spread in stylish surrounds. Do not forget the bourbon. They do beautiful things with brown liquor.

203 E. 6th Street, St. Paul | 651-340-7710
www.handsomehog.com

JELLYBEAN & JULIA'S

It's one of those now or never, all or nothing, family-owned and -operated stories. Jellybean and Julia are a husband-and-wife team who named their store after their two daughters and flung open the doors on their last dime. How can you resist? This hidden gem in Anoka serves not just smoked meats but also comfort food, and breakfast daily. Look to them for savory treats like cornbread waffles flowing with a lagoon of smoky chili, or chicken and waffles with house-made hot pepper maple syrup. Also, pulled pork, brisket, and a house specialty that they cannot retire thanks to popular demand: a grilled cheese with pulled pork, bacon, cheese, grilled onion, jalapeño jam, and roasted garlic mayo.

530 W. Main Street Ste. 8, Anoka
763-421-9749 | www.jellybeanandjulias.com

—MECCA BOS

House of Curry
Authentic Sri Lankan Cuisine in Rosemount Area

Twin Cities best of the Twin Cities Winner 2015

2015 Best of the Twin Cities® winner for Best Restaurant Worth the Drive

3420 150th Street W #119
Rosemount, MN 55068
www.houseofcurrymn.com

Pannekoeken Huis
FAMILY RESTAURANT

One of the top rated breakfast restaurants in the Twin Cities.

Specializing in exceptional comfort food for breakfast, lunch, & dinner.

Open everyday.
Mon-Sat 7am-8pm, Sun 7am-3pm

Next to Miracle Mile Shopping Center.
Located off Hwy 100 & Excelsior Blvd.
4995 Excelsior Blvd. St Louis Park, MN 55416

952-920-2120

PEOPLES ORGANIC

organic. local. fair trade.

$5 Happy Hour
CALHOUN SQUARE - MPLS
GALLERIA - EDINA
PRAIRIE CENTER DRIVE - EDEN PRAIRIE
TUESDAY NIGHTS 1/2 PRICE BOTTLE OF WINES
NIGHTLY SEASONAL SPECIALS

OKOBOJI STORE
1884 2015
BAR ★ KITCHEN

Building the dream team on the shore of Lake Okoboji, Iowa. Join us.

OPPORTUNITIES IN FRONT OF HOUSE AND BACK OF HOUSE AS WELL AS BAR MANAGEMENT. SEASONAL AND YEAR ROUND OPENINGS.

Contact our Human Resources Director for more information: kellie@maumarine.com

BUNNY'S BAR & GRILL
ST. LOUIS PARK
NORTH EAST

Start your day with a Bunny's Breakfast

Now open in Northeast!

Open for Breakfast 8-11am
Weekdays, til Noon on Sat.,
til 1pm Sundays
Of course, open for
Lunch and Dinner as well!

34 13th Ave. NE in the Keg House
(west of Marshall) 612.545.5659

- **Monday–Friday Happy Hour Specials**
  $5.95 Appetizer Specials 4-6pm
  $1.00 off drinks 4-7pm
- **Complimentary Late Night Taco Bar - 7 Nights a Week!**
  Mon-Sat, 10-11pm; Sun 9-10pm
- **Late Night Wing Specials**
  Mon-Sat, 9-11pm; Sun 8-10pm

Follow your favorite teams on our 16 big screen TVs

Check out the original Bunny's in St. Louis Park!

www.bunnysbarandgrill.com

Award-Winning Scratch Made Burgers Burritos Hot Dogs Sandwiches Salads Wings & Local Craft Beers

PEPPERS & FRIES

3900 E Lake St, Mpls
peppersandfries.com

POSE NERDY WITH ME
YOGA QUEST
2920 BRYANT AVE S, SUITE 110 - MINNEAPOLIS, MN
VISIT US FOR YOGA LIKE YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED IT BEFORE!
FROM NARRATED CLASSES THAT MIX FANDOM & FITNESS, TO FUN, CASUAL TAKES ON TRADITIONAL YOGA PRACTICE. YOGAQUEST HAS A CLASS FOR YOU. ALL LEVELS WELCOME!
FIND US ONLINE: YOGAQUEST.ORG
@YOGAQUESTMN YOGAQUEST.TUMBLR.COM /YOGAQUEST

Check out these 5 under-the-radar food trucks

You know how this works, right?

The pop-up becomes the food truck, and the food truck becomes the restaurarant.

Or, at least many of our scrappiest, most dedicated food people have done it this way. These are the folks who may not have big money backing them, but they want it. And they're willing to start from humble roots to get it: on tables under tents, and sometimes without tents, too. These are the hustlers.

SOUL 2 GO

Kesha Dent and her mom, Arlen Davis, run this soul food truck that's popping up all over the place, especially at breweries. They're the ones making this little bit of magic: mac 'n cheese empanadas. Also, watch for their "Sunday Plate," with all the things: smothered chicken, mashed potatoes, cabbage, cornbread, mac & cheese, and empanadas with a guava dipping sauce. On one plate. From a food truck.

Now, just find out where they're parking next and see if there's a vacant apartment nearby.

www.facebook.com/612Soul2Go

CAJUN TWIST

Good Cajun food is difficult to come by around here. So difficult that people will travel for it and organize their schedules around finding some. Cajun Twist used to be available as a pop-up only on Wednesdays, so they called themselves "Hump Dayz," but with an upcoming food truck and more pop-ups in the meantime, you can get their stuff on a lot of other days, too.

They claim the best gumbo in town, red beans and rice, Muffulettas, and even family-recipe pecan candy, plus lots more.

Also, those of you in search of the ever-elusive fried catfish, Cajun Twist will have it, right next to some bomb hushpuppies, on their food truck. Watch for it in the spring.

www.eatcajuntwist.com

FULL BELLY, HAPPY HEART

This husband-and-wife team has a food truck specializing in tostadas. Remind me why nobody else is specializing in tostadas?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ▶

The DEPOT TAVERN
HAPPY HOUR — 3PM - 6PM —
$3 DOMESTIC TAP BEERS
$4 CRAFT TAP BEERS
$3 WELL DRINKS
$3 HOUSE WINE
HALF PRICE APPETIZERS
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, DOWNTOWN
SUN-THURS 11AM-1AM | FRI-SAT 11AM-2AM
KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 1AM
(612) 338-1828 | WWW.THEDEPOTTAVERN.COM
17 NORTH 7TH ST, MINNEAPOLIS,MN

T-Rex Cookie COFFEE & COOKIE CAFE
Cookies as big as your face!
Featured In BuzzFeed INSIDER Time Out THE JASON SHOW HEAVY TABLE
3338 UNIVERSITY AVE SE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414
612-704-TREX / @TREXCOOKIE

R TACO
WE LOVE TACOS
Fresh STREET-STYLE TACOS, local BEERS & MARGARITAS!
Coming Soon
EAGAN (CENTRAL PARK COMMONS)
St. Paul (35E & Randolph)
NE Minneapolis (E Hennepin & Central Ave)
Eden Prairie (Technology Blvd & Prairie Center Dr)
Maple Grove (494 & Bass Lake Rd)
RTACOS.COM

$50 OFF

SPECS APPEAL

A COMPLETE PAIR OF EYEWEAR

must bring in or mention this ad

844 Grand Ave. St. Paul, MN (just east of Victoria) / 651.291.5150 / specsappealmn.com

Swedish Crown Bakery

ALL NATURAL & ORGANIC
AUTHENTIC SCANDINAVIAN

LOTS OF GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS DAILY.
SPECIAL DIET PEOPLE WELCOME!

530 West Main Street | Anoka, MN | 763-427-0506 | swedishcrownbakery.com

LIKE US ON

A Toast to the Valley

Taste from a Unique Collection of Inns, Wineries, Breweries, Historic Sites, Orchards, and Galleries in the Scenic St. Croix Valley.

A Toast to the Valley guides you on this journey.
www.atoasttothevalley.org

Plot your adventure and take selfies toasting the valley.

Send to toast@innsofthevalley.com

Best pics win B & B overnight package with tours and tastings. Sign up for notices of specials and like facebook page for another chance to win Toast to the Valley Package!

Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau

B & B inns of the valley.com

mn EXPLORE MINNESOTA

STOCKTON HERITAGE

Midwest Modern Custom Furniture

MILLED IN MINNESOTA | MADE IN MINNEAPOLIS

3220 Snelling Ave S | Minneapolis | stocktonheritage.com | 973.975.2507

Featuring the 18-hr Smoked Porketta and Smoked Wings - as seen on Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives.

Find the Food Truck Schedule at Northboundbrewpub.com/events

MAKE NORTHBOUND WINGS AT HOME!

LIST of INGREDIENTS		METHOD for the WINGS
8 Chicken Wings	¼cups Kosher Salt	Combine everything in a 2-quart lidded container. Refrigerate for at least 8 hours. Remove the wings from the brine and rinse them. Use hickory wood to smoke the wings for 1-1/2 hour at 250F. You can eat them straight from the smoker. You can grill or fry them too!
1cup Smokehouse Porter	¼cups Brown Sugar	
2cups Water	¾ts Black Pepper Corns	

2716 EAST 38TH STREET, MINNEAPOLIS • 612.208.1450 • SUN-THU 11AM-1AM, FRI & SAT 11AM-2AM • **NORTHBOUNDBREWPUB.COM**

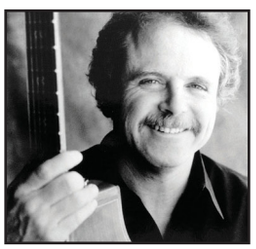
The Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts
It's Worth the Drive!
FREE PARKING

Noel "Paul" Stookey of "Peter Paul and Mary"
March 18 • 7:30 PM

John McCutcheon
Legendary Folk Singer
March 25 • 7:30 PM

Gallagher's Joke's on You
Comedy Tour
April 7 • 7 PM

Pat Donohue
of "A Prairie Home Companion"
April 14 • 7:30 PM



THE MABELTAINTER CENTER FOR THE ARTS
205 Main Street East | Menomonie, WI
Ticket Sales: 715-235-0001 | www.mabeltainter.org

BRITISH PIE WEEK
MARCH 6TH-12TH

5 SAVORY HAND PIES

CALL FOR TAKE AWAY PIES AT A SPECIAL PRICE

BRITISH PIE WEEK

IRISH WHISKEY TASTING | MARCH 16TH
CALL FOR RESERVATIONS!

MERLINS REST PUB
AUTHENTIC • BRITISH • RESTAURANT
3601 EAST LAKE STREET • MINNEAPOLIS • 612.216.2419 • WWW.MERLINSREST.COM

CITY PAGES
BEST
OF THE TWIN CITIES
party!
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
BESTOF.CITYPAGES.COM

SAWATDEE
Thai Cuisine

Award Winning
Thai Cuisine Since 1983

Catering • Happy Hour
Private Room • Delivery

6 locations: Minneapolis,
St. Paul, Maple Grove,
Eden Prairie, St. Cloud,
& Bloomington

www.sawatdee.com

K'UL
CHOCOLATE

Chocolate is not candy.
Chocolate is food.

2211 E Franklin Ave • Minneapolis, MN
Made in America.

These are "not your average" tostadas, and I'm pleased to see that they're offering a focused menu of only four, with one inspired by Peru, with potato instead of corn at the base; and another with everybody's old favorite: tinga with avocado tomatillo.

www.fullbellyhappyheartmn.com

TOP DOG

Prairie Dogs recently shuttered, so now where are you supposed to get a good dog? Top Dog is not focused on foie gras dogs but instead on the classics, like a Polish or a good old-fashioned Chicago dog. They've got six hot dog carts scattered all around downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul right now, and the owners say they had some ordinances changed to be able to operate at night. So if you're stumbling around after the sun goes down and you come across the irresistible aroma of grilling tube meats, you have Top Dog to thank.

Their plan is also to open a chain of restaurants, starting in north Minneapolis. We'll keep you posted.

www.facebook.com/topdogsandmore

WHA' JAMAICAN

Wha' Jamaican is going big or going home. The 30-foot Airstream trailer converted into a food truck will be rolling out this spring, and they really want you to think of them as an instant party, DJ included. In the meantime, they're popping up and catering with Jerk chicken, oxtails, escovitch fish (a traditional fried fish recipe with lots of chile), callaloo, and even ackee with saltfish and other difficult to come by Jamaican treats. Check out their Facebook page to get a load of that Airstream.

www.facebook.com/whajamaicanllc

—MECCA BOS

Sneak peek of Bellecour, Gavin Kaysen's French bistro in Wayzata

The abridged tale of Gavin Kaysen: Minnesota boy goes to New York. He becomes a very talented name chef, and then returns to Minnesota. He opens quite possibly the splashiest restaurant the Twin Cities have ever seen, and then starts working on another, this time in the picturesque city of Wayzata.

Unless you are the type of foodie who keeps a keen eye on the New York City dining world, you likely hadn't heard

THE MEXICAN EXPERIENCE

Boca Chica™
RESTAURANTE
MEXICANO
y CANTINA

CELEBRATING
53
YEARS

Enjoy

Authentic Mexican Food

LIVE Mariachi every
4th Saturday

651.222.8499
11 CESAR CHAVEZ, ST. PAUL, MN 55107

www.BocaChicaRestaurant.com

TOP VALU LIQUORS

FREE IN STORE SPRING WINE TASTING

Wednesday, March 8 • 5:30-8pm

4950 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights*

***Tasting at this location only**

ENTER A FREE RAFFLE TO WIN A NESPRESSO VERTUOLINE COFFEE MAKER

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN, NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.

SPRING WINE SALE!

All wines are 15% OFF!

3/6/17 THROUGH 3/18/17

DOES NOT INCLUDE WINES ALREADY ON SALE OR CLOSE-OUT.

BEER SPECIALS

PRICES GOOD THROUGH 4/1/17

Guinness *6pk Bottles*	***$6.97***
Guinness *24pk Bottles*	***$27.88***
Guinness *8pk Cans*	***$10.97***
Mike's Hard Lemonade *12pk (all types)*	***$11.97***
Red Hook *12pk Bottles (all types)*	***$10.97***
612 Brew *IPA & Porter 6pk Cans*	***$8.97***
Pale Ale, Lager & Red Stack 6pk Cans	***$7.97***

Plus many other great products at Low Sale Prices!

Check out our website at topvaluliquor.com
Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with all of our specials and events!

TOP VALU ON CENTRAL AVE
4950 Central Avenue, Columbia Heights 763.706.3819

TOP VALU 37TH AVE
2105 37th Avenue, Columbia Heights 763.706.3813

LET US HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT

2016 CERTIFICATE of EXCELLENCE tripadvisor · tripadvisor 2014 Winner Certificate of Excellence · 2015 TRAVELLERS' CHOICE tripadvisor · OpenTable WINNER 2014 DINERS' CHOICE · OpenTable winner Diners' Choice 2016 · OpenTable winner Diners' Choice 2015

URBAN EATERY

REHEARSAL DINNERS
CORPORATE DINNERS
STREET LEVEL CALHOUN BEACH CLUB | MYURBANEATERY.COM

naturepedic®
organic mattress gallery

New year.
New neighbor.
Are you sleeping healthy?

Naturepedic Organic Mattress Gallery

14200 Wayzata Boulevard | 952.855.7492
www.naturepedic.com/minneapolis

Fast Eddies Pizza
"A Taste of Old Minneapolis"
WE'RE BACK!!
Homemade Pizza,
Wings and Cheesebread
612-729-7622
612-272-2445
4747 NICOLLET AVE S
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
Open M-Sa 11am-10pm & Sa-Su 11am-9pm

ELEMENT
WOOD FIRE PIZZA
Best wood fire pizzas in town.

96 Broadway St. N.E. | Mpls, MN 55413
M-Th 11am-9pm | Fri 11am-10pm · Sat 12pm-10pm | Sun 12pm-9pm
612-379-3028
www.elementpizza.com

the name Gavin Kaysen until about two years ago. Then, you couldn't stop hearing the name Gavin Kaysen. Gavin Kaysen was everywhere. Aside from Tim McKee and Steven Brown, who've been on the scene for decades, Kaysen probably has the most recognizable chef name in town.

Gavin Kaysen, Gavin Kaysen, Gavin Kaysen!

It was, unsurprisingly, too much hype to live up to. And at first bite, Kaysen's Spoon & Stable was largely billed as good, but not otherworldly good.

Now that it's gotten its footing, Spoon & Stable is by all accounts an excellent restaurant, one that hosts the world's biggest names in food to raise vast amounts of money for charity. One where the chef sits as vice president of Bocuse d'Or, the world chef championships. One where quite literally the world's finest chefs (Thomas Keller, Daniel Boulud, Grant Achatz) are just a phone call away.

Which brings me to what is probably the most important point about Gavin Kaysen and his impact on our dining scene: As he builds his second restaurant, Bellecour, a true classic French bistro, he's got all those connections at his fingertips.

As he watches the construction of the front retail bakery area for pastry chef Diane Yang, our local high priestess of sugar, Kaysen can (and does) have her go to Thomas Keller's Bouchon bakery in New York City and learn how the super, super big dogs do things. And then she can bring those tricks back to little old Minneapolis.

This is the really exciting part. Because if you want to book a ticket to New York to get a really proper French boulangerie Madeleine, or an eclair, or a slice of Opera cake, you can. But soon you'll only have to go to Wayzata because Bellecour will have all that.

Kaysen is really fond of the space, having grown up near there. When we visited, the old Blue Point space on Lake Street was still a construction zone, the projected March opening date still a ways off. Though it was difficult to envision the place beyond the exposed beams and drywall, Kaysen could totally see it.

"It's the polar opposite of Spoon," he says of the design. Lots of chartreuse and amber and a big pink and purple mural on the east wall.

Other design elements include an exposed kitchen, a chef's table, and a big

XAVI
RESTAURANT
NEIGHBORHOOD DINING, EVOLVED
612 - 825 - 6900
xavirestaurant.com
5607 Chicago Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55417

LET'S TAKE A STAND. Fairness. Honesty. Justice.

Fighting for justice is hard work; you need a dedicated team in your corner. Find out how we can help with your employment, consumer or whistleblower disputes at **halunenlaw.com**.

halunenlaw

EMPLOYMENT • CONSUMER • WHISTLEBLOWER

CHECK OUT THE RATES WE'VE GOT COOKING!

Our fully staffed team is ready to service all of your insurance needs. Give us a call today for your free, no obligation quote with over 50 independent insurance carriers!

"Live Life Confidently" with Carney Insurance!

CARNEY INSURANCE SERVICES

944 Lake St S Forest Lake, MN

(651) 464-6001

NOW OPEN IN ARDEN HILLS

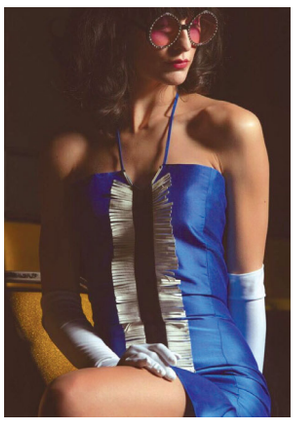
OFF LEXINGTON AVENUE AND COUNTY ROAD E

The Tavern Grill

RESTAURANT+BAR

Join us for Happy Hour! Featuring Food and Drink Specials
From 3PM–6PM and 9PM–Close, Monday–Friday.
Come relax at the walk-up bar on the patio!

THETAVERNGRILL.COM | 651-478-4450

Showroom
Voted Best Minnesota-Made Shopping
Sustainable luxe.
Feel good fashion.

Discover the work of over 20 MN Artists & Makers!
SHOWROOM IS LOCATED IN UPTOWN AT LYNLAKE:
615 W Lake Street | MPLS, MN 55408
showroommpls.com

old bar for bar manager Robb Jones to do what he does best: classic cocktails done to precision. Longtime local wine director Nico Giraud will head up the vinos, which is cool because in addition to his grape knowledge he's a true hospitality pro, "a dying breed" as Kaysen puts it.

As far as the menu is concerned, Kaysen is emphasizing French bistro classics, like foie gras terrine and escargot en croute, and dishes that "literally have three ingredients and must be of really high quality because we can't hide behind anything."

In this moment, they're hiding behind a construction fence. But not for long. The kitchen equipment is about to be delivered. They've got a cookbook in the making due to be released next year. Bellecour is gonna be fancy. Not a pinball machine in sight.

As the local and national dining scene becomes ever more casual, Kaysen is sticking to what he knows. That is, what's classic, French, and proper. He's zigging when others are zagging. As we get to know this native son a little better, we can say with a little more confidence: "That's Gavin Kaysen."

The chef has a small restaurant empire on his mind, which will possibly expand regionally, and possibly even back to New York. But first things first: Bellecour opens in March.

739 Lake Street E., Wayzata

—MECCA BOS

What happens when a restaurant hits hard times? Three owners chime in

It's a dirty little secret that's not really so secret.

And yet, independent restaurant owners have to be mum about it anyway. They have hard times. Really, really hard times, where they sometimes even have to entertain the idea of shutting the doors. But they can't tell anyone, because it might look like they are having hard times.

"You sort of have to suffer in silence," says Sarah Harms-Master, whose restaurant Mr. Roberts in Pengilly, Minnesota closed last year. "It's embarrassing. You want to keep up your airs."

"Keeping up airs" is in part what keeps restaurant ownership looking

Caffrey's Lives!
Doors are open and the kitchen is churning out old favorites!
WE DELIVER AND CATER

caffrey's deli & subs
3008 Lyndale Avenue S
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(612) 822-5551
We're Open 7 Days a Week
10:30am – 3:00am
VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE! WWW.CAFFREYSMPLS.COM

EST. 1921 Heimie's HABERDASHERY ST. PAUL
Newly expanded alterations and tailoring services available at
Heimie's Haberdashery
Visit Heimie's in the heart of Downtown St. Paul
Something for Everyone
• ALTERATIONS SHOP
• TAILORED CLOTHING
• CIGARS
• HANDMADE LEATHER BAGS & GUN CASES
• HATS
Best of the Twin Cities 2010, 2011, & 2013
Reader's Poll 2012
Best Men's Clothing Store
400 St. Peter St • St. Paul, MN • 651-224-2354
heimies.com

DAVID FONG'S
Family Owned & Operated Since 1958
www.davidfongs.com
David Fong's Restaurant
9329 Lyndale Ave S
Bloomington · 952.888.9294
Fong's Restaurant & Bar
4770 Pleasant St SE
Prior Lake · 952.447.3664
D. Fong's Chinese Cuisine
4321 County Road 42
Savage · 952.894.0800

BEAUCOUP

BRUNCH

BISCUITS

BLOODIES

BEIGNETS

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS
8AM - 2PM

COMO

DOCKSIDE

LAKESIDE PAVILION

1360 LEXINGTON PARKWAY,
SAINT PAUL

NOW OPEN MONDAYS

WINNER WINNER CHICKEN DINNER

try our

big ass fried chicken sandwich

have a cocktail or choose from our selection of

100 CANS OF BEER

337 ★★

THE SHERIDAN ROOM

337 13th Ave NE MPLS • thesheridanroom.com

glamorous. A restaurant has to always look shiny, new, exciting, and most of all successful, so that it can continue to attract customers, who, after all, go in part for a fantasy.

Angelo Pennacchio has owned Minneapolis' Bar Luchador since 2015. Like almost all indie restaurateurs, he was seeing the realization of a lifelong dream. "My mom still has my frigging 'Angelo's Cafe' typewritten sign up on the wall."

And he repeats the very same mantra I hear from most independent owners, even the ones who've loved and lost: It's the most difficult thing in the world, and the most rewarding.

Still, hard times are a very hard, very real reality. Pennacchio recently had to swallow some pride and put up a plea on Facebook for new customers to take advantage of a Groupon, and to please visit the restaurant. It read:

"Hey everyone! I'm a proud dude, so it's super embarrassing to admit that the end of December/January has been a really hard month at Luchador. I don't love Groupon but I would absolutely love if the people I love took advantage of this awesome deal and came and enjoyed the restaurant for super cheap!"

There's that word again: embarrassing.

"I hated writing that post," he tells me. But, he said, if it encouraged people to come out who hadn't been in, then perhaps some good could come out of it.

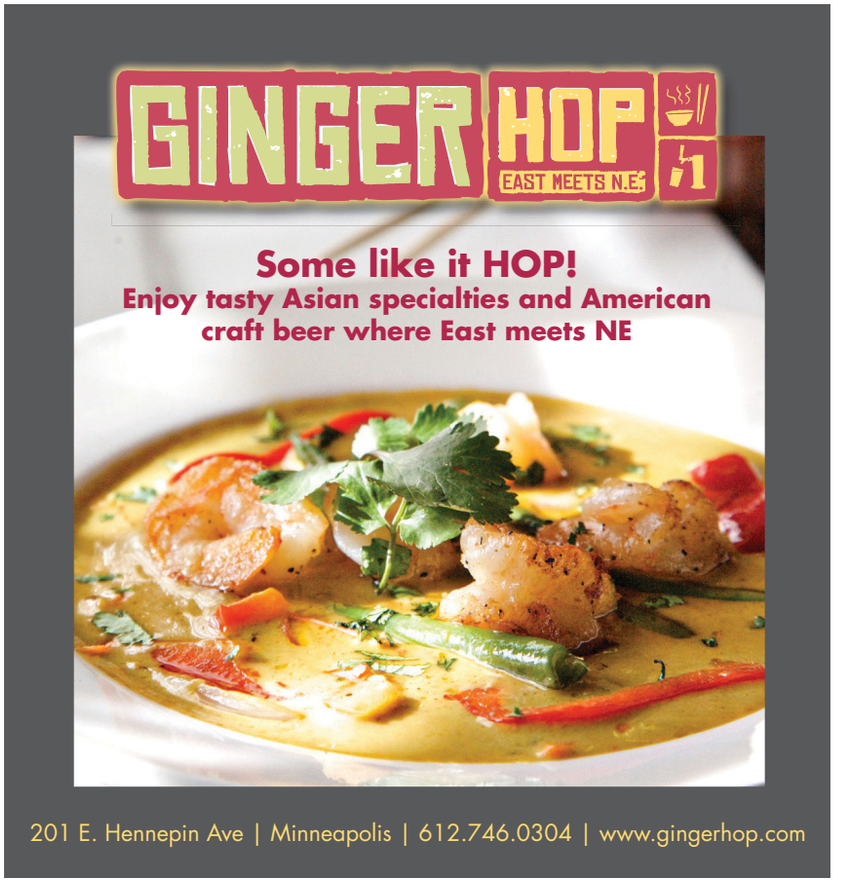
Bar Luchador is located in Stadium Village, so when school is out, it's especially tough financially. Plus, he says, the weather is crummy in January, and people are trying to stick with their New Year's resolutions to eat and drink less. He calls it a "triple whammy" for the restaurant.

Meanwhile, he's struggling to retain good employees while business is down, so even though he can and does do quadruple duty as cook, bartender, server, and dishwasher, there's only so much staff trimming he can do. He has to make sure those people can continue to make the money they need to live and to stay working there.

He knows that business will be back up soon enough, but in the meantime he pivots, he's nimble, he wears all the hats. "You don't think about it day to day or you'd drive yourself insane," he says.

But the day-to-day business can be the difference between keeping the doors open and not. I've had owners tell me off the record that even one bad week could ruin them.

"People come in and spend their



BLACK DOG LOWERTOWN

Brunch and Bloodys | Burgers and Beer

WEEKEND BRUNCH 'TIL 2PM

Across from the Farmers' Market
4th and Broadway, Lowertown Saint Paul

651.228.9274 | BlackDogStPaul.com

CROONERS
Lounge & Supper Club

LIVE MUSIC DAILY

AWARD-WINNING CHEF BENJAMIN MCCALLUM

www.CroonersLoungeMN.com

On Highway 65, just north of 694 on Moore Lake

763-571-9020

Crow River
WINERY

the BISTRO

Serving delicious, inspired dishes crafted with care using local ingredients whenever possible.

Seasonal menu items and specials are added often - **see what's new today!**

www.CrowRiverWinery.com 320-587-2922 A short drive west of the Twin Cities in historic Hutchinson

hour and a half in the restaurant and either like it or hate it and then go online and bash my life," says Harms-Master, laughing wryly. "You spend every ounce of your life there. It's hard to take even one day off."

The always entertaining Eddie Wu of Cook St. Paul, one of our most vocal and honest restaurateurs ("I have no shame, all my dignity is already gone, you can't humiliate me anymore," he half jokes), says retaining the illusion of success while struggling runs deep.

He tells me a story of writing what he thought was a private letter to a magazine that featured his restaurant, thanking them and explaining how thin the margins can be, and how a little press can make all the difference. Unbeknownst to him, it ran as a letter to the editor. He got calls from other restaurateurs, thanking him for speaking out about the delicate subject. He had no idea that he had, but he says it illustrates how unwilling most owners are to admit that hard times happen.

"Nobody wants to hear about the owner who is working 80 hours a week and making less than the dishwasher. It ruins the dream."

Harms-Master and her partner wound up launching a Go Fund Me page in a plea to save their restaurant. She had already sold her house and tapped out her savings account, and there was nothing left to do, they figured. They actually ended up making their goal, and it still wasn't enough. The restaurant closed anyway.

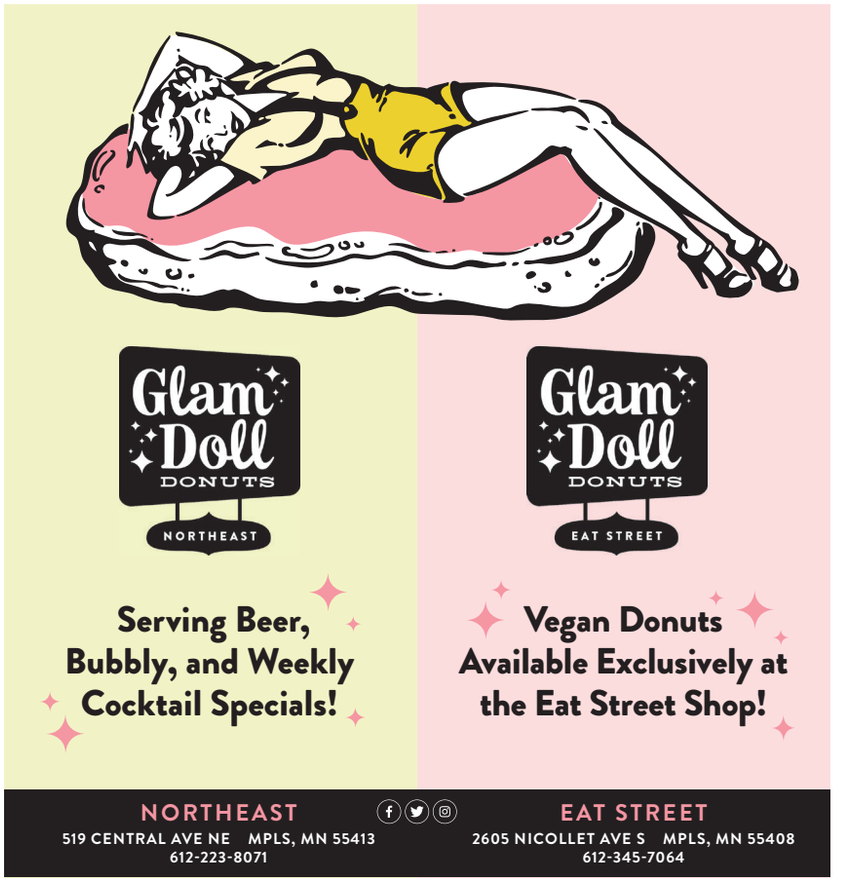
"You have no idea how much money you have to spend," she says. "It's pretty epic."

Epic or not, Wu doesn't think he's speaking only for himself when he says it feels "shameful" to ask for help, and while other businesses have alternative avenues for assistance when times get lean, the belt tightening all falls back on the owner.

At his place, the servers are tipping out the cooks so that they can make a higher hourly wage. In gratitude, Wu takes fewer shifts on the floor so that the servers can recoup the money that they are passing on. Which means less money for Wu (and for his family). It's just how it goes.

Pennacchio can relate. He says he can always tell how well (or not well) the restaurant is doing based on how fat the stack of his own personal payroll checks is—the ones he hasn't cashed.

If there's a bright side to any of it,



HOPS FOR HUNGER™ 5.0

MARCH 25TH,2017 | SOLAR ARTS BUILDING

PURCHASE TICKETS: HOPSFORHUNGER-5.EVENTBRITE.COM

PROCEEDS BENEFIT SACA Food Shelf & Thrift Store

PLATINUM SPONSOR financial one

INBOUND BREWING · INDEED BREWING · URBAN GROWLER · WILD MIND ARTISAN ALES · FAIR STATE BREWING · ABLE SEEDHOUSE · BARLEY JOHNS BREW PUB · LAKES & LEGENDS · 612 BREW · BROKEN CLOCK · DANGEROUS MAN · BAINBRIDGE BREW LABS · MODIST BREWING · BAD WEATHER · 10K BREWING · BENT BREWSTILLERY · SOCIABLE CIDER WERKS · BOOM ISLAND BREWING · NORTHGATE BREWING · 56 BREWING · TIN WHISKERS

SACA FOOD SHELF AND THRIFT STORE

DATE: SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2017

TIME: 5:00PM TO 8:00PM

WITH FINANCIAL ONE CREDIT UNION PROUDLY PRESENT HOPS FOR HUNGER™ 5.0

FOOD OFFERED BY CHOWGIRLS KILLER CATERING

TICKETS: $40 IN ADVANCED $45 AT THE DOOR PLEASE VISIT EVENTBRITE.COM TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS

LOCATION: SOLAR ARTS BUILDING 711 15TH AVE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55413

A LOCAL MICRO BREW TASTING

PROCEEDS BENEFIT SACA FOOD SHELF

LIVE MUSIC PREFORMED BY ANALOG DRIFTERS & TRAVELIN' MOBURYS

#BuyLocalArt

First Thursdays

Every Month

Open Studios

5pm-9pm

Solar Arts Building

711 15th Avenue NE

El Nuevo Rodeo

Tantalizing Regional Mexican cuisine

Open After Bar 'til 4 am weekends!

2709 E Lake St. Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Free Parking at USBANK

(612) 721-0101 / (612) 721-6808

www.elnuevorodeorestaurant.com

CHECK OUT ALL
THE GREAT BEERS FROM
TIN WHISKERS
SELECT VARIETIES
NOW IN CANS
FLIP SWITCH I.P.A
SHORTCIRCUIT STOUT
WHEAT STONE BRIDGE
©2017 TinWhiskers Brewing Company
TIN WHISKERS BREWING CO
125 East 9th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
Downtown at 9th and Robert Street
Open Tue-Thu 4-10PM, Fri 3-11PM
Sat 12-11PM, Sun 12-8PM
TWBREWING.COM

Minnesota's first beer is back
Yoerg's Beer
YOERG BREWING CO. ST. PAUL, MINN.
YOERG ST. PAUL

Pennacchio says the lean times make him take a hard look at the product, figuring out where he can tighten the slack. He says that he's heard feedback more than once that "hey, the food is tasting better than ever" after a particularly tough stretch.

Though she admits she must be a glutton for punishment, Harms-Master says she'll do it again if she has the chance, and she'll know what to do differently this time around. She's currently running the kitchen at Red Stag if you want to get some of her cooking in the meantime.

As for Wu, he says if he had to do it all over, he might go back and work as a bathroom attendant at a strip club again.

Keeping it real, all day every day.

—MECCA BOS

Can Can Wonderland: Drink a craft cocktail while you mini-golf in St. Paul's industrial Midway neighborhood

While the North Loop in Minneapolis and Lowertown in St. Paul remain magnets for new businesses and restaurants, lately our ever-expanding food and drink scene is venturing into more underserved parts of town.

Places like Augustine's setting up in an old laundromat on Selby Avenue means more vibrancy all over the place and not just the uptowns and downtowns.

But what about transforming an old Spam canning facility into a psychedelic playland full of pink fuzzy monsters, vintage pinball machines, live music, mini-golf, cotton candy, and Fig Newton adult malts? What power does that have over the neighborhood in question?

As you drive down industrial Prior Avenue off University, you might start looking askance at your Google maps, assuming the old phone GPS has led you astray again. It hasn't. Once parked, descend into the strange, cold depths of what seems like an old vacant warehouse, and when you start spotting the colorful graffiti and murals, you'll know you've found it.

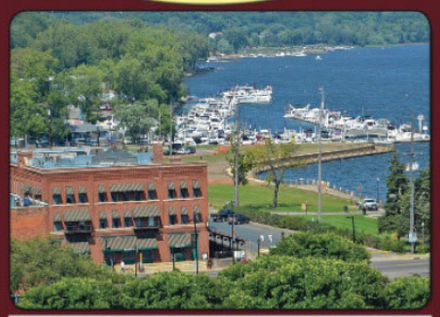
"It" being, well, it's hard to say. Can Can Wonderland is weird, funky, oddball. If you love the thrill of going to a party where someone has bothered to infuse things with a little circus-like

UPTOWN'S AWARD WINNING BRUNCH
LIVE MUSIC SUNDAY BRUNCH
10 am – 2 pm
Adults: $22.95 | Children: $12.95
$3 Bloody Mary & Mimosas
Famous Dave's
Calhoun Square | 3001 Hennepin Avenue | 612.822.9900
Smoked Meat Carving Station
Made to Order Omelet Station
Award Winning Pancakes
Home Made Stuffed French Toast
BBQ Rib Tips and Wings
Dave's Own Southern Fried Chicken
Biscuits with Smoked Sausage Gravy
Waffles with Pecan Praline Sauce
Fresh Fruit Bar
Assorted Muffins
Live Music and Much More!
THURSDAY, MARCH 2
MITCH KASHMAR
7 pm - 10 pm / No Cover
FRIDAY, APRIL 14
POPA CHUBBY
9 pm / $10 Cover
FRIDAY, MAY 19
DARE FORCE
7pm Doors / 9 pm Show
Club Closed 6 pm - 7 pm
$12 ADV / $15 DOS
Advance tickets guarantee seating
tikly
www.FamousDavesBluesClub.com

MISSION MANOR
ESCAPE ROOMS
Inheritance
Countdown
Asylum
"★★★★★"
DARE TO ESCAPE
www.missionmanor.com
861 E. Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis MN 55414

WATER STREET INN
Est. 1890

WATERSTREET INN.US
651-439-6000
101 WATER STREET SOUTH
STILLWATER, MN 55082



Four-Course Wine Dinner
Each Wednesday our Chefs create a special four-course dinner menu,
Each course paired with a specially selected glass of wine for $34.95 per person.
Served from 5:00pm to 9:00pm, reservations suggested.

Stillwater's Complete Hospitality Experience

- Charlie's Restaurant & Irish Pub
- 41 Guestrooms: Double Whirlpools & Fireplaces
- Event Coordinator
- Live Irish Music Every Weekend
- Meeting / Banquet Rooms
- Weddings & Receptions
- Elegant Guestrooms

The Office PUB & GRILL

TWINS CITIES LIVE, MIKE MORRIS, BEST KEPT SECRET FOR WATCHING FOOTBALL

2 HAPPY HOURS
7 DAYS A WEEK

3PM-6PM (FOOD & DRINKS) | 9PM-11PM (FOOD & DRINKS)

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK FOR EVENTS & SPECIALS!
FACEBOOK.COM/LETSGOTHEOFFICE
307 WASHINGTON AVENUE N
MPLS | NORTH LOOP NEIGHBORHOOD
612.339.5081
THEOFFICEPUBANDGRILL.COM

- Dual USB Ports and Outlets All Around the Bar
- Year Round Heated Outdoor Patio
- Sports Ticker Tape with up to the Minute Scores/News/Odds
- All Major Sports Packages
- Free Parking in back
- Pull Tabs

ORIGAMI
RESTAURANT

BEST OF WINNER
Best Sushi – City Pages 2015
Best of the Twin Cities

HAPPY HOUR
5:00-6:30pm Every Day
All Day on Sundays
One of the best happy hours in uptown!

RESERVATIONS
Now taking reservations online
www.origamirestaurant.com

1354 LAGOON AVENUE | MINNEAPOLIS, UPTOWN | 612.223.8666

color, then you're gonna love this. Why let an ugly old warehouse sit empty when you can make art and hot dogs and boozy snow cones instead?

The founders are a collective of creatives, the people behind such Twin Cities art projects as Walker Artist Designed Mini Golf, the Ten Second Film Festival, and Soap Factory's Haunted Basement. Bittercube is of course taking care of the cocktails, and Mise en Place (what Bittercube is to cocktails, Mise en Place is to food) is doing the food.

The food is no small matter here, considering that there is no proper kitchen, and no ventilation system, which means no oven, burners, or fryers. They're working with what they've got, namely some popcorn machines, hot dog rollers, sandwich presses and the like.

So, check it out: concession food. Not elevated concessions, not farm-to-table concessions, just the old-school stuff of your childhood.

Hungry? Get a hot dog. Actually, they've gone a little bit further than that, as far as they can go with their limitations. You can get mac & cheese piled on your dog if you must, or guac, or banh mi pickles. Toasties, nachos, and mini donuts round out the list, plus a smattering of salads for the veggie-minded.

But the real draw in the refreshment department is drink, where two bars provide a dispensary of wackadoo wonders.

While the Bittercube guys can certainly do craft cocktails, all prim and proper, they seem more in their wheelhouse when things get weird. Can Can is designed for getting in touch with your inner child, so they went full-fledged juvenile with the drinks menu. Juvenile with alcohol, of course.

Adult sno-cones, malts, and sodas anchor the menu, with bourbon and bitters poured right over crushed ice, or Fig Newtons, brandy, and caramel blended into ice cream and served in a glass roughly the size of a fish bowl and garnished with edible gold glitter and purple sprinkles.

It's fun. And let's face it, we need some damn-good fun right about now.

These things can also be made virgin, and since Can Can is kid-friendly by day, a "library of cereal malts" is excuse enough to get in line with the wee ones right this minute. Pick a cereal and the Bittercube crew will make a malt out of it.

Or perhaps you'll try some cheddar cheese ice cream. What can be said? You just gotta try it.

Or just grab a hot pocket or a Heggies

Troubadour
WINE BAR

POETRY NIGHT
first Monday of every month

LIVE CABARET
every following Monday night

LIVE MUSIC
8-10 Tuesday-Thursday
9-11 Friday-Saturday

2827 Hennepin Ave S · Minneapolis, MN
WWW.TROUBADOURWINEBAR.COM
Follow us on Instagram @troubadourwinebar

The Real Deal

The Anchor
Fish & Chips

PROUDLY SERVING A FULL IRISH BREAKFAST

Sat & Sun: 10am-Noon

302 13th Avenue NE • Minneapolis, MN
theanchorfishandchips.com

LEANING TOWER OF PIZZA Restaurant & Bar
2324 Lyndale Ave. S,
Uptown, MPLS • 612.377.3532
leaningtowermpls.com

BEST PIZZA IN MINNEAPOLIS
Since 1952 Only the freshest ingredients!
WE DELIVER EVERYTHING ON OUR MENU!

TWO NEW HAPPY HOURS!
4-6pm & 10:30-12:30am
7 DAYS A WEEK!

PUB STYLE TRIVIA EVERY TUESDAY!
Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Places!

WINE WEDNESDAY!
1/2 Price on Wine!

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

featherstone farm
locally and organically grown fruits and vegetables

ORGANIC. LOCAL. FRESH.
25 CSA Delivery Sites

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:
RECEIVE A FREE BONUS BOX
Sign up now! Pay in Full by March 10th and receive a FREE BONUS BOX of spring vegetables including asparagus, strawberries, and tender greens.

RUSHFORD, MN • FEATHERSTONEFARM.COM

Free WINE TASTING
FRI 4-8 SAT 3-7

BEER TASTING Free
EVERY TUE 4-8

MPLS MINN
NORTH LOOP
WINE & SPIRITS

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE NORTH LOOP

WE OFFER HUNDREDS OF UNIQUE WINES, CRAFT BEERS & FINE SPIRITS

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

WE HOST TASTINGS & CLASSES

FREE DELIVERY

NORTHLOOPWINE.COM
612-338-5393

218 WASHINGTON AVENUE NORTH
MINNEAPOLIS MINN 55401
OPEN 9AM-10PM MONDAY-SATURDAY

African Paradise Restaurant
AFRICAN | MEDITERRANEAN | AMERICAN

espresso • lunch • dinner

2700 EAST LAKE STREET #1300 | MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55406 | 612.354.2551

2017
TWIN CITIES
JEWISH
FILM
FESTIVAL

sabes jcc St. Paul JCC

March 18 – 25, 2017

Tickets: tcjfilmfest.org or
(952)381-3499

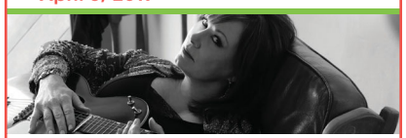
TWIN CITIES JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

2016-2017
music at the center

saturday sets
7pm social hour | 8pm concert

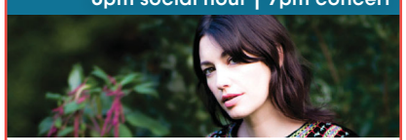
Sierra Hull
March 11, 2017

David Wilcox
April 8, 2017



Suzy Bogguss
May 13, 2017

take five tuesdays
6pm social hour | 7pm concert



Pieta Brown
March 21, 2017

Bill Frisell
April 25, 2017

Tickets: 952-979-1111
www.HopkinsArtsCenter.com
1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins

hopkins center for the arts

15 minutes from Downtown Minneapolis
FREE PARKING

or a wine in a can (surprisingly high-quality and drinkable) and get on with your night of mini-golfing.

Can Can Wonderland could not have come at a better moment. It's time to fight the bizarro world we live in with an all-out joyful pushback of weirdness. Without taking ourselves too seriously. With junk food and sprinkles and art. With music and bourbon and bacon-spritzed cotton candy. With Hot Pockets and Captain Crunch. You can have it all at Can Can Wonderland.

And if you can't have fun here, you better call the doctor, 'cuz you got a hole in your soul.

—MECCA BOS

New breweries for St. Paul and Minneapolis

There are already over a hundred breweries in Minnesota, but if that's not quite enough, two more are coming soon, one for St. Paul and another for Minneapois.

UTEPILS BREWING CO.

Utepils is apparently a Norwegian word for the "anticipation and longing for the first beer enjoyed in the sunshine after a long, cold dark winter." What a word. And don't we know it? In that spirit, Utepils Brewing Co. will include an 11,000 sq. ft. beer garden, and an 18,000 sq. ft. taproom within (because as much as we love beer in the sun, we're nothing if not realists around here).

The Theodore Wirth Parkway area brewery opened February 18, and the beer will eventually be available in stores and on tap in local bars. They'll specialize in European-style bright, blonde beers.

225 Thomas Avenue N., Minneapolis
www.utepilsbrewing.com

12WELVE EYES BREWING

If you're gonna have a brewery, you gotta have a clever name to go with it. This new downtown St. Paul brewery by three bespectacled guys, Elliot Grosse, Karl Eicher, and Dalton Buchta, will be called 12welve Eyes Brewing. (Get it? "Four-eyes" times three.) The brewery, in the Pioneer Endicott Building, will specialize in small-batch brewing, and an adjacent alley will give it room for food trucks, and possibly a patio. It's slated to open sometime this summer.

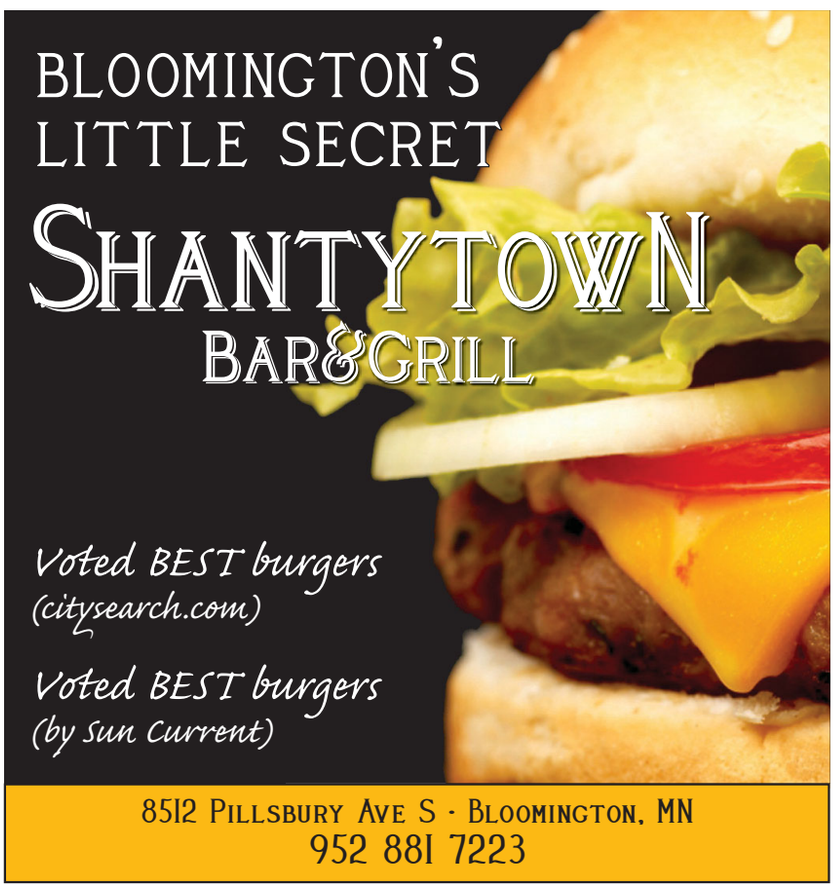
141 E. 4th Street, St. Paul
www.12welveeyes.com

—MECCA BOS

IT'S GREEK TO ME

CLASSIC MODERN GREEK CUISINE
IMPORTED GREEK PRODUCTS
INTIMATE FULL BAR
THREE-SEASON GRECIAN PATIO

626 W Lake Street | Minneapolis, MN | 612.825.9922 | www.itsgreektomemn.com



MAYA

CUISINE & BAR

home made food

Authentic Mexican in Northeast Minneapolis!

HAPPY HOUR | 3-6PM | MON-FRI

1st Tap Beer FREE with purchase of $6 Appetizer

(BEER OPTIONS: Summit, Pacifico, Angry Orchard, Negra Modelo)

(APPETIZER OPTIONS: 3 Pork/Chicken Tacos, Pork/Chicken/Beef Nachos, Buffalo Wings)

Margaritas 2 for 1 - Lime, Strawberry, or Peach

Best Mexican Restaurant 2015

Best Mexican Restaurant (Readers Choice) 2016

Iron Fork Winner Best Tacos 2016

1840 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis | 612.789.0775

Mon-Thu 10am-9pm | Fri 10am-10pm | Sat 9am-10pm | Sun 9am-9pm

Twin Cities Ballet of Minnesota

Join Us This Spring

Exciting mixed program featuring Tutus & Toe Shoes, Gothic Romance & Cowboys

CLASSICAL CONNECTIONS

March 10 - 11, 2017
Cowles Center, Mpls

World Premiere! Unique reimaging of the classic story ballet *Coppélia*

COPPÉLIA NOUVEAU

May 12 - 14, 2017
Ames Center, Burnsville

TwinCitiesBallet.org 952-452-3163

Tickets On Sale Now!

Ballet Royale Minnesota

Official School and Home of Twin Cities Ballet of Minnesota

Ballet Royale MN
Academy of Dance

Live the Dream

Pre-Ballet Creative Dance • Mommy/Daddy & Me
Youth, Adult, & Teen Ballet • Men's Ballet
Professional Trainee Division **Day Program, by audition only**
Free Boys Program **Creative Dance, Ballet for Boys, Boys Dance Cross Training**
Ballet Royale @ Ames! **Satellite Program at Ames Center**

Opportunities to perform with Twin Cities Ballet!

BalletRoyaleMN.org (registration accepted all year) 952-898-3163

ST. CROIX CASINO
TURTLE LAKE
25th
ANNIVERSARY
Celebrating
25 YEARS
OF BETTER
DINING!
1.800.846.8946 | STCROIXCASINO.COM
#TURTLELAKE25